

Message Text

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14

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAL-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /156 W

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R 080045Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7392

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FROM LOSDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, BG

SUBJ: BANGLADESH BASELINE PROPOSAL

DACCA 1891, 2130

1. USDEL MEMBERS HELD FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH BANGLADESH REP RASHID TO DISCUSS BASELINE PROPOSAL. BANGLADESH AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 6 RADICALLY ALTERS EXISTING INTER-NATIONAL LAW AND STATE PRACTISE CONCERNING BASELINES FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA OR FUTURE ECONOMIC ZONE. BASIC CLAIM RELATES TO ALLEGED INSTABILITY OF NORMAL BASELINE IN DELTAIC AREA.

2. BOTH UK AND US REPS EXAMINED CHARTS OF GANGES DELTA AREA FOR PAST 20 TO 40 YEARS AND ASCERTAINED THAT CLEAR

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BASELINE IN FACT EXISTS AND MOREOVER SHOWS GREAT DEGREE

OF ANNUAL STABILITY. WHILE SEASONAL ALTERNATIONS ARE
ACKNOWLEDGED DUE TO RIVER FLOODING, MONSOONS AND CYCLONES,
THE CONFIGURATIONAL CHANGES OF SEAWARD EDGE OF DELTA
WERE JUDGED NO GREATER THAN CHANGES IN OTHER FORMS AND
TYPES OF COASTLINES THROUGHOUT WORLD.

3. INFORMAL GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS
(USREP HODGSON) MET ON BANGLADESH PROBLEMS IN CARACAS,
GENEVA AND AGAIN IN NEWYORK. GROUP UNAMIMOUS THAT THE
SITUATION CAN BE MET ADVANTAGEOUSLY BY BANGLADESH WITH
EXISTING SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT FORMULATION FOR ARTICLE
6 AS A BASELINE PROBLEM.

4. FYI EXPLANATIONS GIVEN FOR THE BANGLADESH PROPOSAL
TO VARIOUS DELEGATIONS APPEAR CONFUSING AND OFTEN CON-
TRADICTORY. WHILE BANGLADESH REPS INFORMED USDEL MEMBERS
THAT BASELINE PROBLEM DID NOT RELATE TO DELIMITATION
ISSUES WITH INDIA AND BURMA, EXPLANATIONS TO OTHER
DELEGATIONS CONCENTRATED ON THIS PROBLEM. THE DELIMITATION
EXPLANATION APPEARS MORE LIKELY AND, IF THIS IS THE CASE,
ISSUE WOULD BE BETTER MET IN ARTICLES 13, 60 AND 71 ON
BOUNDARY DELIMITATION. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THIS TO
BANGLADESH REPS. END FYI

5. THE USDEL CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO BANGLADESH PROPOSALS
FOR BASELINE DUE TO ADVERSE EFFECT ON NAVIGATIONAL AND
SOVEREIGNTY ISSUES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BOUNDARY RIVERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN02015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760178-0232
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760575/aaaacmic.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH BASELINE PROPOSAL DACCA 1891, 2130
TAGS: PLOS, PBOR, BG, US
To: DACCA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006